

Spray Courier

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WORLD'S DOINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume of General News From All Around the Earth.

UNIVERSAL HAPPENINGS IN A NUTSHELL

Live News Items of All Nations and Pacific Northwest Condensed for Our Busy Readers.

Use of shells in the European war exceeds all records.

London has reports of a decided victory over the Turks in Asia.

Two Federal inquiries have begun in the steamer Eastland case in Chicago.

A Belgian steamer and a Swedish brig were torpedoed by submarines Friday.

The French chamber of deputies has increased the limit of the French defense bonds to \$1,400,000,000.

American imports from Germany have decreased within the past year from \$14,994,585 to \$1,153,257.

A spot six times as large as the earth has appeared on the sun, and will be visible until August 10.

The majority of Spaniards are declared to favor the allies, but to be determined to keep out of the war.

British authorities have arrested a German for landing in England with a cleverly forged American passport.

English soldiers have uncovered antique Greek relics of great value while digging trenches at the Dardanelles.

A Portland Chinese was arrested by customs officials with 26 pounds of crude opium concealed in a basket of vegetables.

Another fine of \$1,000,000 has been imposed upon the city of Brussels by the Germans, as a reprisal for the destruction of a Zeppelin by allied air-men.

One hundred deaf mutes saw the scenic beauties of Portland while attending their national convention, and "heard" everything explained by deaf mute "spielers."

A shortage of between \$2500 and \$3000 in the treasurer's office in Spokane has been discovered, and two employes have been suspended pending further investigation.

Michael Damphoffer, Jr., aged 70, of Vancouver, Wash., is dead, and is survived by his father, aged 100 last January. Both were Grand Army veterans and fought shoulder to shoulder in the First Oregon Volunteers.

Charles F. Becker, former police lieutenant of New York City, was electrocuted Friday morning for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, a gambler, on July 16, 1912. He protested and declared his innocence to the last.

Vacating his own court order made earlier in the day, Judge McAllister, of the Superior court of Arizona, granted an appeal to the State Supreme court in the case of four Mexicans sentenced to be hanged at Florence penitentiary.

The evacuation of all of Poland by the Russian forces is considered certain, and the Kaiser with his queen plans to enter Warsaw in state. The empress is already in Russia on a visit to the headquarters of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's army.

Eight miners are killed in a mine explosion at Christopher, Ill.

Reports say that the Russians have materially checked the advance of the Germans on Warsaw.

Fishing smacks are seriously hindered in the war zone because of the German submarine warfare.

About a dozen bombs were dropped in Verona, Italy, by an Austrian aeroplane. There were no victims of the air attack and the damage done to property was insignificant.

Evidence offered before the coroner's jury in the case of the overturning of the excursion steamer in Chicago river, shows the boat was overloaded, and the water ballast pumped out to keep the vessel from scraping the bottom.

Officials of the Navy and Army departments have begun a series of conferences which will have to do with the betterment of National defense. Findings of the conferences will be presented to President Wilson.

The temperature rose to 90 degrees in the shade at Seward, Alaska, and it was 103 at Kenai Lake. There have been only four rainy days in two months. Several fires are burning in the Sugah forest east of Anchorage.

GERMANY DEFIANT WITH LATE AMERICAN NOTE, OFFICIALS ADMIT

Washington, D. C.—Destruction of the American ship Leelanaw by a German submarine drew sharply to the attention of officials of the United States government the fact that Germany was insisting on her own interpretation of the Prussian-American treaty of 1828 in disregard of two American notes on the subject.

The Leelanaw, from Archangel, July 8, for Belfast, with a cargo of flax, was sunk July 25 by a German submarine off the northwest coast of Scotland.

All the members of the crew were saved. They were taken into Kirkwall in their own boats.

In three instances of American ships destroyed or damaged—the Gulfight, the Nebraska and the William P. Frye—Germany has agreed to pay damages. In the last case the Berlin government took the position that it had not violated the treaty of 1828, but had exercised a right given her by inference from the language in the pact. Officials of the Washington government were apprised of the destruction of the Leelanaw, but beyond adding another incident to the already strained relations between the two governments, there was no indication that the case would lead to a new turn in the general situation.

The fact that the members of the crew were saved caused a relief in official circles, but there were many evidences of apprehensions that if Germany continues to promise payment, yet destroys more American ships, a new situation might be created which would require further warning to the Berlin government.

The fact that the Leelanaw carried a cargo of flax, declared contraband by Germany on April 18, does not alter the view of the United States government that the contraband might have been removed and the vessel spared. Under the general rules of international law, the destruction of a neutral vessel carrying contraband was not admitted until the famous "night commander" case in the Russo-Japanese war.

Definite Step in Mexican Affairs Promised Soon by High Officials

Washington, D. C.—A definite step toward settling the Mexican problem will be taken by the United States government in the near future. Authoritative announcement to this effect was made at the State department, although the nature of the contemplated action was not disclosed. President Wilson is understood to be revolving several suggested courses in his mind. His decision probably will not become known before his return to Washington from Cornish, N. H.

Mr. Wilson is known to have been reviewing the situation for some time, the warring Mexican factions having failed to heed his suggestion of two months ago that they accommodate their differences and restore peace in the distressed country. Apparently he has determined that the other measures which the Washington government announced it must take if the battle of the factions continued must now be resorted to.

The President's most probable course, it is reported, would be to urge General Carranza for the last time to confer with other faction leaders in an effort to bring about peace. Should Carranza again refuse this plan, it is said efforts will be made to assemble other Mexican leaders who will represent a majority of the Mexican people.

Such a conference, it was suggested, might be held in Northern Mexico, if it is possible to free it from military interference. If not, it might be held across the border in the United States. The conference would arrange for a constitutional convention which would plan for an election and establishment of a government.

British Take Turk City.

London—Official dispatches concerning the operations along the Euphrates river in Asiatic Turkey announce that the British forces, after rushing and capturing the Turkish advance and main entrenched positions, occupied the town of Nasiriyeh on the morning of July 25.

A British gunboat shelled the city on the previous night, and the Turks, disorganized, retreated northward. The British, during their advance, captured 11 guns and two machine guns. Several hundred prisoners were taken and 500 dead Turks were found in the main position.

Vienna Press Doubts U. S.

Vienna, via London—The Neue Freie Presse expresses itself as unable to understand why the United States refused Germany's proposal for protecting the lives of American citizens at sea, and although seeking the sanctity of American passengers, declined the practical means offered for securing this end.

"It is a question," the paper says, "whether the same stiff-neckedness would be observed against England."

FINAL STEP TOWARD PEACE TO BE TAKEN

Army and Navy Is Prepared to Aid in Mexican Move.

INTERVENTION REGARDED IMPROBABLE

Last Chance Will Be Given Warring Factions to Adjust Differences Within War-torn Republic.

Washington, D. C.—Definite steps toward restoration of peace in Mexico will be taken immediately on President Wilson's return to Washington. What specific action the President may have decided on has not been disclosed, but it was authoritatively announced that the executive departments of the government were preparing to carry out the program determined on.

Only an unexpected movement in Mexico itself to end the strife, it is

SIMEON E. BALDWIN



Simeon E. Baldwin, former governor of Connecticut, has been mentioned for the place of counselor of the state department, left vacant by the appointment of Robert Lansing as secretary of state. He is now seventy-six years old.

He would further delay affirmative action by the United States to restore constitutional government in the war-torn republic.

Armed intervention is not believed to be contemplated in the President's program. Many officials believe no forcible measures will be required. Persistent reports have reached here that the faction leaders are inclined to yield to the demands of this government for a peace conference.

Reports are generally credited that a message will be sent to the opposing leaders giving them a final chance to cease hostilities within a limited time and assemble a conference to settle their differences. Possibility of another failure to do so, in view of the last refusal of General Carranza to join in a conference with his adversaries, is being considered by the President, it is declared, in formulating a plan of action.

Whether in that event a general embargo on arms exportations will be imposed or American troops employed to assure the transportation of food to the starving people can not be predicted. It is known, however, that the army and navy have been preparing and now are ready for any eventuality.

Secretary Lansing said that the representations sent to Generals Carranza, Villa and Zapata urging that routes to Mexico City be opened to provision trains, were forceful. The message to Carranza, who controls the railroads from Vera Cruz, was particularly emphatic. While not couched as a "demand" that the railroad to Mexico City be opened and kept open, its purport was to that effect.

No answer from any of the Mexican generals had been received. It was believed, however, that provision trains would be moving to Mexico City within a few days under guard of Carranza troops.

Officials were led to this belief by reports that General Gonzales had driven off a Villa column under General Fierro and returned to Villa Guadalupe, just outside of Mexico City, practically occupying the capital. Roving bands of Zapata soldiers, which have been harassing the railroad, are being driven off, it was said, and garisons stationed along the railroad.

OREGON STATE NEWS

All Convicts at Work.

Salem—For the first time in several years all state convicts but four or five physically incapacitated because of age, were put to work Wednesday by Harry P. Minto, superintendent. The population of the prison is 520, the largest in its history, and since the contract system was abolished it has been a problem to provide employment for the prisoners.

More than 200 men are employed pulling flax, and the others are at work building a concrete floor in the flax factory and at the prison rock quarry. The six gangs outside the penitentiary enclosure were guarded, and Mr. Minto said there was little danger of any of the men escaping.

"Our men are doing good work," said the superintendent, "and they apparently enjoy working away from the prison. It will take about ten days more to complete pulling the flax, when employment will be provided in the prison preparing the flax for market."

Mr. Minto and John C. Cady, state flax expert, are superintending the harvesting of the flax, which is expected to yield the state a revenue at least commensurate with the cost of production. The plan of growing flax to provide employment for the convicts was originated by Governor Withycombe, the recent legislature making an appropriation to inaugurate the industry.

New Work Is Indicated.

Astoria—That the Dubois Lumber company is preparing to log a portion of its timber holdings soon is indicated by a mortgage given by it to H. B. Powell, trustee, of Clearfield, Pa., and filed for record here. The mortgage pledges 21,089.85 acres of timber land in Clatsop county and 3980.07 acres in Tillamook as security for \$1,000,000 in 6 per cent 25-year bonds.

The mortgage provides that the company shall have the right to begin cutting timber any time after July 1 this year, and the company is to pay the trustee \$1.50 a thousand for the timber cut up to 35,000,000 feet, and \$1 a thousand above that amount. No mention is made as to what the money borrowed is to be used for, but it is understood the amount is to be expended in constructing railroads and operating logging camps.

Brighton Mill Runs Full.

Brighton—The big mill at Brighton is running full time and with a complete crew of men. Logging operations along the Nehalem river have been active in several of the smaller camps in preparation for the resumption of work here and several hundred thousand feet of logs have been cut. Manager Thomas Watt has been to San Francisco to interest shipowners to take cargoes of lumber from Brighton and feels that his hope of water transportation for the product of the mill soon will be realized.

The work on the south jetty at the Nehalem river will be completed within six weeks and the water conditions are most favorable. In spite of the absence of freshets during the spring, which usually scour the bar to a considerable depth, the channel this year is deep enough to allow good-sized freight carriers to cross.

Coast Road Is Inspected.

Newport—A party consisting of George H. Cecil, district forester of the Northwest; Shirley Buck, Mrs. Buck and B. J. Finch, all of Portland, made the first auto trip around Cape Perpetua on a road constructed jointly by Lincoln and Lane counties and the Forestry service.

Mr. Cecil's trip was to inspect the road, and he found the work done satisfactorily. Lane county has not yet completed its share of the road, from Waldport, Alsea Bay, to Florence, on the Siuslaw.

100 at Seavey Family Reunion.

Eugene—More than 100 members of the Seavey family, one of the oldest families in Lane county, assembled at the summer home of J. W. Seavey, on the McKenzie, Wednesday, for a family reunion. For the past four years it has been the custom of this family to hold an annual reunion. The celebration began with a picnic dinner served on the lawn under the big cedars.

Grants Pass Plans Pool.

Grants Pass—A public mass meeting was held recently at the Commercial Club rooms to decide upon the plans for the new municipal bath house. The bath house is to be erected in Riverside Park on Rogue River.

6 MEN BLAMED FOR STEAMER DISASTER

Strong Verdict Is Returned by Coroner's Jury.

OWNERS AND LESSEES OF BOAT HELD

Captain, Engineer and Two Federal Inspectors Also Taken to Task for Overloading Steamer.

Chicago—A coroner's jury has returned a verdict placing the blame for the loss of over a thousand lives by the capsizing of the steamer Eastland in the Chicago river Saturday on six men. These are:

William H. Hull, general manager of the Chicago-St. Joseph Steamship company, owner of the Eastland.

Captain Harry Pedersen, of the Eastland.

J. M. Erickson, engineer.

Robert Reed, Federal inspector of steamships, who gave the Eastland license to carry 2500 passengers July 2.

J. C. Eckloff, Federal inspector of steamships.

W. K. Greenbaum, general manager of the Indiana Transportation company, lessee of the Eastland.

The jury recommended that these men be held to a grand jury for indictment on charges of manslaughter.

The jury found the passengers were not in any way to blame for the capsizing of the ship. It recommends further investigation by the coroner and other officers to determine whether the men named and others may be guilty of negligence or of contributing in any way to the cause of the disaster.

The six jurors selected by Coroner Hoffman to hold the inquest on the victims of the Eastland catastrophe are: Dr. W. A. Evans, formerly health commissioner; Colonel Henry A. Allen, consulting engineer; Harry Moir, hotel proprietor; J. S. Keough, coffee merchant; Eugene B. Elfeld, hotel manager; W. F. Bode, wholesale grocer.

"In the absence of evidence of undue acts on the part of the passengers or violent physical causes, such as explosions, fire or collision, the fact that this vessel overturned is proof either that it was improperly constructed for the service employed, or that it was improperly loaded, operated, maintained, or that all of these causes operated to bring about the serious result."

"It is our judgment that the steamer Eastland was both improperly constructed and improperly loaded, operated and maintained, and that the parties named are responsible."

Mob Assassinate Haytian President; U. S. Warship Protects Foreigners

Washington, D. C.—Following the assassination of President Guillaume, of Haiti, by a mob at Port-au-Prince, American marines were landed to protect lives and property of Americans and other foreigners.

The mob broke into the French legation, in which the Haitian President had taken refuge, and shot him to death. They then dragged his body through the streets at the end of a rope, finally dismembering it.

The mob was led by relatives of the 160 political prisoners who were executed the day before.

Rear Admiral Caperton advised the Navy department that he had sent a force ashore from the cruiser Washington. Rear Admiral Benson, acting secretary of the navy, declined to make the message public, but said: "Admiral Caperton now has the situation in hand."

Six Sunk "by Mistake."

Amsterdam, via London—German submarines, according to a telegram received here from Berlin, had sunk in the war zone up to April 25, 229 English vessels, 30 other hostile ships and six neutral craft. The latter, the message says, were sent to the bottom by mistake.

Twenty-seven additional neutral vessels, the dispatch adds, were examined and sunk because they carried contraband.

Liquor Shipments Barréed.

San Francisco—All beverages containing alcohol, no matter in what proportion, will be refused for shipment into Arizona by all railroads entering the state, it is announced by the Southern Pacific company. This decision, it was said, was reached after a conference between Wiley Jones, attorney general of Arizona, and representatives of the railroads.

GREAT EMPIRE'S FLAG

COMBINATION REPRESENTED IN THE GERMAN BANNER.

Council Appointed to Select Suitable Emblem Had a Hard Task—Prus- sian Delegates Finally Set- tled the Question.

When the present German empire was established by uniting the several German states into one realm, the question arose as to what flag the new empire should fly. As it happened, each state wanted its own special standard adopted, and no two of them were alike, though as a general thing each was composed of two colors; thus Prussia had black and white, Bavaria blue and white, Saxony green and white, and every other state, no matter how small, possessed a flag.

When the great German empire became an established fact, naturally it was necessary to adopt a banner that would be distinctive, and include all the states, as every government insisted on being represented. A council was appointed to take charge of the whole matter, and the difficulty it encountered in coming to a decision will be better appreciated when it is remembered that there were at least 40 combinations to be made, if all were to be satisfied with the arrangement.

The larger states, the kingdoms, proposed that their flag should be united and thus form the national flag, but the delegates from the small principalities objected so strongly to the ignoring of their claims to recognition that this plan was voted down. Another proposition was that all the smaller states should be represented on jack or corner of the flag, and have a series of stripes, each representing the five cities of larger states. This was also rejected as too cumbersome an arrangement. Again it was suggested to have each state, large or small, represented in the body of the flag, a method of portioning out the surface in squares, so much to each state. This inconvenient and inartistic plan was also rejected.

The Prussian delegates, however, next prepared a combination of colors and, of course, black and white were not cast aside. The idea was to adopt a flag composed of black and white and red, as this latter had always been considered an imperial color. The other kingdoms objected fiercely to the predominance of the black and white of Prussia over the blue and white and green and white of Bavaria and Saxony, but the Prussian delegates found allies in those from the smaller states, who, recognizing that there was no hope of having the flags of their own little states adopted, felt willing to have the claims of the larger overbearing states ignored, as well as their own, so they voted with the Prussians, and the black, white and red was accepted.

Then again, the smaller kingdoms insisted that each should keep its own flag to fly at the head of its own particular contingent in the army. This proposition was voted down, as it was decided it would give valuable information to an enemy as to the number of troops, a great mistake in war times. Another proposition, that of hanging black, red and white stripes parallel to the staff, was decided adversely, on the ground that the red, white and blue stripes of the French flag, being hung in that manner, the two flags might be confused in the midst of battle. This ended the question, and the Prussian flag, with the addition of the imperial red, was adopted as the national standard of the whole German empire.

Half a Billion for Candy.

Five hundred millions of dollars is spent every year in the United States for candy. This startling figure is given out by the Pan-American union at Washington, strangely coincident with the assertion of the Navy league that exactly the same sum is needed to give this country a navy which would place us in second place among the sea powers, the New York Mail remarks. In other words, if we stopped eating candy for one year and donated the savings thus accumulated to the national treasury, congress would not have to make any further appropriation for a naval increase.

While the figures are not at hand, one may be justified in speculating upon the size of the army that might be developed if the nation's chewing gum money were diverted from its present channels. No doubt we could become the military masters of all we survey—but think of the degeneracy which the jaw muscles of the nation might suffer in consequence!

There are many soothsayers but few prophets.